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## City Bracing for Revenue Impacts of Decline in Air Travel

On Sept. 11 the nation experienced a terrorist attack of proportions never seen before. Hijacked airplanes were turned into weapons of mass destruction, toppling the World Trade Center in New York City and causing significant damage to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Slowly, the nation is returning to its daily routine, but an already weakening economy has worsened. As this edition of the SeaTac Report goes to print, interest rates are at the lowest level in nearly forty years and significant job cuts have been announced by airlines anticipating a continuing decrease in passengers.

Economists report that it is far too early to estimate the long-term impact on the national economy. It is also difficult to determine the impact on the City of SeaTac. However, the City Council and staff are planning to develop a 2002 Annual City Budget that acknowledges the fact that "The Hospitality City" stands to lose substantial revenues. Following is a very early summary estimating the local impact and its effects on the City's budget.

### Property Tax Levy

Nearly one-half of the City's total assessed valuation, on which the property tax levy is based, consists of values placed on airline companies operating at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The Department of Revenue has confirmed that the City should not be impacted in regard to property tax collections until 2003, when levies will be based on valuations as of Jan. 1, 2002. It will be impossible to deny that the values placed on the airlines have not been significantly reduced by the terrorist attack and resulting impacts on air travel.

The top ten property tax payers in the City of SeaTac accounted for 40% of the 2000 tax levy. The list is staggering given recent events: Alaska Airlines, United Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Boeing, Horizon Air, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Delta Airlines, DoubleTree Hotel and Continental Airlines. The top two taxpayers alone — Alaska and United — accounted for 18.8% of the property tax levy last year.

A twenty percent (20%) reduction in values of airline companies based on these valuations would result in an estimated loss of 2003 property tax revenue exceeding \$600,000, affecting the City's General Fund.

### Sales Tax

A sizable portion of the City's revenue base is sales tax, which totaled \$8.3 million in 2000. Most of this revenue depends upon the travel/tourism industry related to airport operations. In 2000, the City's top ten payers of sales tax contributed thirty-nine percent (39%) of the total collected by the City. Nine of

*continued on page 2*

### PUBLIC BUDGET HEARINGS

Nov. 13 and 27  
at Regular  
Council Meetings



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### *Revenue Impacts, cont...*

the ten sales tax payers were directly related to the airport/travel industry, while the tenth company paid one-time sales tax related to construction activity. A twenty percent (20%) reduction in sales tax would reduce 2002 projections by \$1,440,000.

### **Interest Revenue**

The Federal Reserve has lowered interest rates numerous times this year in an effort to prevent a recession. The City invests money not immediately needed for operations to help keep taxes lower. At this time, the City is anticipating a lower interest on investments of three percent for the coming year, reducing General Fund operating revenue for 2002 by \$200,000.

### **Parking Tax Revenue**

Parking tax revenue collections totaled \$4.7 million for 2000. However, the events of Sept. 11 could result in a significant decrease in air travel for the 2001 holiday season. Parking tax revenue supports operating street maintenance and construction budgets of the City.

Modified revenue projections would still cover the 2002 base operating budgets of these funds, but will likely delay some construction projects, but not all.

### **Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue**

A decrease in air travel will adversely impact this revenue source due to the fact that most of the SeaTac hotel business is driven by travel in and out of the airport. Fortunately, this revenue primarily supports capital or one-time expenditures, and the fund currently has a significant fund balance, so no budget cut is anticipated.

In fact, the City Council has asked that \$1 million of these funds (which must, by state law, be used to promote tourism) be spent immediately on programs to encourage more travel to SeaTac to stimulate our local economy.

### **Summary**

The City Council will be considering a 2002 budget proposal, including budget reductions and associated service level impacts, throughout November with final approval of the 2002 Annual Budget scheduled for Nov. 27. City services may be sharply reduced and the number of employees reduced in order to maintain a balanced budget. ~

## **Passport Applications — Serving our Community**

The City Clerk's Office is certified as a designated Passport Agency through the U.S. Department of State for the purpose of accepting applications for passports. This service is available on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Application forms and information regarding current passport laws are also available to the public during regular City business hours. Please contact our office for any questions concerning applying for a passport at 206-248-6112. ~

### **CITY COUNCIL**

Shirley Thompson  
*Mayor*  
206-824-7677

Kathy Gehring-Waters  
*Deputy Mayor*  
206-878-1166

Gene Fisher  
*Councilmember*  
206-242-0716  
[Gfisher4@uswest.net](mailto:Gfisher4@uswest.net)

Terry Anderson  
*Councilmember*  
206-244-3516

Frank Hansen  
*Councilmember*  
206-878-3200

Joe Brennan  
*Councilmember*  
206-824-2646

Don DeHan  
*Councilmember*  
206-246-094  
[Don@seatac.wa.gov](mailto:Don@seatac.wa.gov)

### **CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

City Hall Council  
Chambers  
at 6:00 PM

Regular Meetings:  
2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Study Sessions:  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Council Workshop:  
4th Wednesday at 6:00 PM

City Council Meeting  
Agendas are posted  
at City Hall,  
Valley View Library,  
and North SeaTac Park  
Community Center.



## **Airport Mail Center Closes to Retail Service**

The Airport Mail Center retail unit on Air Cargo Road closed Oct. 7. The decision was made by the U.S. Postmaster because of heightened security in and around airports throughout the country. However, the Riverton Heights Station, 15250 32nd Avenue South, will be open longer hours from 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., seven days a week with the exception of postal holidays. ~



**Before – looking toward Alaska Flight Training Center**



**Median Landscape near Comfort Inn**



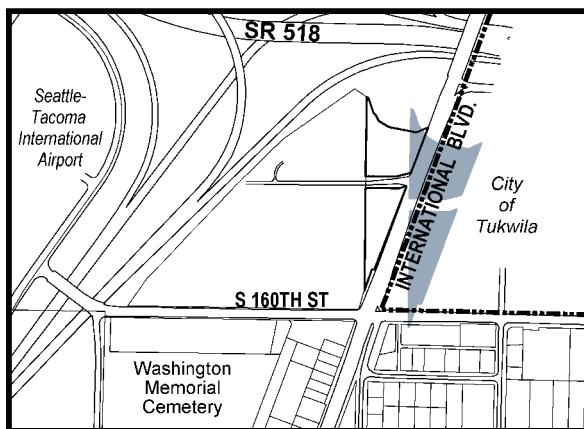
**After – looking toward new NW Hangar**

## 28th/24th Avenue South Arterial Project Completed

Reconstruction of the 28th Avenue South corridor from South 188th Street to South 200th Street is now complete, providing an arterial access from the south end of the Airport at South 188th Street to South 200th Street. Future plans call for a southerly extension of the new arterial to an interchange with the SR 509 extension. (In the approximate area of South 204th Street and 26th Ave S.) It is anticipated the new arterial will serve airport support-related development in the future, as well as providing the City with a new business corridor.

The project is unique in several aspects. The roadway itself is a concrete road, which will provide a 50-year plus life with low maintenance. In addition the roadway includes two lanes in each direction separated by a wide landscaped median

for most of its length. The median provides some nice aesthetics, and also serves as a surface water quality enhancement. It is designed with plants that remove pollutants from the street runoff, which is collected and directed to the median. Other project elements include underground electrical utilities, new streetlights and traffic signals, and sidewalks on both sides of the new arterial. This project is one of the largest undertaken by the City and provides potential for redevelopment of the area. The project was funded through City parking tax revenues, the state Transportation Improvement Board and a Local Improvement District. The City will formally celebrate successful completion of the project with a ribbon cutting before the end of the year. For further details call Dale Schroeder, Public Works Department, at 206-241-1996. ~



## Public Hearing on 2001 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The City will hold a Public Hearing on the 2001 proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments on Monday, Nov. 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The Comprehensive Plan, the City's "blueprint for development," contains a future land use map and goals and policies that provide guidance to the City as we grow and change. The Comprehensive Plan has been reviewed each year and amended as needed to reflect new conditions within the City.

The 2001 proposed amendments include one amendment to the future land use map that is shown on the map above. The proposal is to change the designation of the shaded parcels from Commercial High Density to Airport, to accommodate a planned Port of Seattle rental car parking structure.

In addition, several amendments to the text of goals, policies, and strategies in the plan have been proposed. All amendment proposals are available for review by the public.

The City Council will be reviewing the proposed amendments at meetings in Nov. and are tentatively scheduled to take action on the amendments on Dec. 11. For more information on meeting dates, or to review the Docket of amendments, please call Mike Scarey or Brian Galloway, Department of Planning and Community Development, at 206-241-1893. ~



**Above, members of Troop 391 and their families who participated, with Jason Billingsley at center.**

**Left, work underway to clear brush.**

## Eagle Project at Bow Lake Park

Jason Billingsley, a member of Boy Scout Troop 391 from Des Moines United Methodist Church, recently completed a project to improve Bow Lake Park, a small neighborhood park located at South 178th Street and 22nd Avenue South. Under his leadership, 16 members of Troop 391 and their families improved the park by weeding, clearing and planting landscape beds, cutting brush, moving and painting the park sign and installing a bench. Completing the park project will help Jason in his effort to become an Eagle Scout, which is only reached by approximately one percent of people who enter scouting. Our thanks go to Jason and his volunteers! ~

## Land Exchange and New Trail

The City and Port of Seattle have identified approximately 55 acres currently leased by the City from the Airport that will be considered for return to airport use. The acreage is at the southeastern area of the current 200-acre North SeaTac Park leasehold. The area is undeveloped, but has been used in the past by equestrians who bring their horses there to ride. The equestrians have almost exclusively been non-city residents and their use has dropped to very low levels in recent years. At present the airport has no specific development planned for the area. When any airport use is finally identified, the airport will be required to meet development standards, such as landscaping and setback buffers, to be compatible with the neighborhood.

The City expects to benefit from the return of this leased property to the airport in several ways. First, property upkeep will become the airport's responsibility. Second, the airport agrees to provide property elsewhere in the area for a new City Parks and Public Works maintenance facility. The City currently rents space that is inadequate for this purpose. We have found it difficult to find a site to build a new maintenance shop. This agreement would provide the City a site. Third, the airport will become obligated under terms of an existing agreement with the City to provide \$1.5 million and other support for development of a new trail linking North SeaTac Park with the Des Moines Creek Trail, eventually connecting to the Des Moines Marina. Last, the property will become available for economic development ultimately contributing jobs and added revenues to the area. The City Council at this writing is scheduled to have a public meeting on Oct. 16 at North SeaTac Park Community Center to discuss the land exchange and consider approval on Oct. 23. ~

## Correction Notice

**September-October Edition — SeaTac Volunteer June Hollar in the Spotlight**

The information regarding the employment of June Hollar's three daughters-in-law should have read that two are teachers and one is a counselor, however, not at Bow Lake Elementary School. Mrs. Hollar is employed at the school and has been with them since 1967.

*Note: If you know of any SeaTac resident or business person who has contributed to the welfare of the community who we could contact for a short interview for the spotlight, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 206-248-6112. ~*



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# THE CITY OF SEATAC WISHES YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY



## Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Once again, the SeaTac City Fire Department will be driving Santa around the City to say hello to all the girls and boys. Look for Santa in your neighborhood on one of the following days:

**Saturday, Dec. 15**  
**Between 10 AM and 2 PM**

**Sunday, Dec. 16**  
**Between 1 PM and 4 PM**

## Winter Break Camp

If you still have to work and your kids are out of school for the holidays, we have a fun solution for you! Enroll your children in our Winter Break Camp that will be held between Dec. 26 and Jan. 4. Daily activities include crafts, field trips and recreation in a safe, supervised setting. For more information or to register, please call our Parks and Recreation Department at 206-439-9273. ~

## Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thursday, Nov. 29 at 6:30 PM

Celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with your friends and community. Enjoy live entertainment and refreshments with a special friend from the North Pole at Valley Ridge Park. ~



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## Elementary Schools Seek Volunteers to Tutor Students in Reading

Bow Lake, Madrona and McMicken Heights Elementary Schools need volunteers for the Washington Reading Corps tutoring program. Volunteers are caring people able to help young children with basic reading skills. Current volunteers include neighbors, parents, senior citizens, business folks and older students. Training and curriculum are provided. If you have an hour or more per week and could volunteer either during the school day or in an after school program, please call Martha Teigen, Highline School District, at 206-433-2266. ~

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## New City Hall Purchased

We reported in September that the City Council had voted to pursue acquisition of a three-story building at South 188th Street and Military Road. We are now pleased to report that the City has completed the purchase of the building, known as the Valley Ridge Center. Two of the three floors are planned for City Hall use. One of the floors will be leased out by the City, thus providing income to the general fund.

Planning is now underway for necessary renovations to turn the Valley Ridge Center into a new City Hall. Renovations will be necessary to provide for Council Chambers and Municipal Court, as well as for expanded police facilities. There will also be many changes to create a "visitor friendly" City Hall.

The purchase of its own building opens a new chapter for SeaTac. There are many positive aspects to the building. Modifications are expected to take about 12 months and occupancy should take place at year-end 2002. ~

## Radar Trailer Results on South 200th

The Radar Trailer, stationed on South 200th at 32nd Avenue South, counted a total of 120,573 vehicles during a twelve-day period in September. The average speed of vehicles traveling through the posted 25-MPH zone was 26.04 MPH. Eighty-five percent of the vehicles were traveling at 31 MPH or under. The maximum speed recorded during the period was 61 MPH and the minimum speed was 10 MPH. Most of the higher speeds were associated with emergency vehicles, though not all. These statistics show a steady improvement towards speed limit compliance on South 200th Street. For placement of the trailer in your neighborhood, contact Officer Henry Sherwood at 206-439-4714 or email [hank@seatac.wa.gov](mailto:hank@seatac.wa.gov). ~

## Bioterrorism Updates

The latest information is available online at the King County Metro website [www.metrokc.gov/health/bioterrorism](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/bioterrorism). The site contains continuously updated information, important phone numbers and health advisories. ~

## Let Landscaping Bolster Your Security

In addition to locks and security systems, careful landscaping can both ensure your privacy and defend against unwanted intrusions on your property. Start with these simple steps, most of which are easy do-it-yourself projects:



- Reinforce fences: Thorny bushes and climbing vines can act as natural barbed wire; try planting bougainvillea or climbing roses directly against the fence to provide protection against intruders.
- Trim plants: Overgrown shrubs can provide a hiding place for intruders. Trim plants frequently, and don't let shrubs grow so tall that they obscure windows. Cut away dense shrubbery near doorways or basement entrances.
- Light up the yard: Install motion-sensor landscape lights near all entrances to the house; these inexpensive lights can eliminate shadowy areas.
- Make noise: Rake piles of leaves under shrubs or cover areas under windows with gravel. Noises caused by stepping in these areas may be enough to discourage a burglar.

*For additional assistance contact Officer Doug Reynolds, Community Crime Prevention Unit, 206-439-4711, for a Residential Survey. ~*

## City Acquires Thermal Imaging Cameras

What if a firefighter could see through smoke to locate a child hiding in a closet, behind a sofa, or under a bed? How about finding a hidden fire or hot spot in a wall or attic without having to cut into that wall or attic? SeaTac Firefighters are now equipped with Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs) that are considered one of the greatest advances the fire service has experienced since motorized fire engines. On Aug. 14 the City Council authorized the purchase of four TICs so that one will be available on each of the four City First Responding Units. In heavy smoke or total darkness these devices measure heat that is reflected on a camera screen as a black and white picture with varying degrees of gray. As recently demonstrated in the Econo-Lodge fire (see below), the cameras will be a valuable tool in providing greater efficiency in locating trapped victims and firefighters, locating the seat of a fire, and reducing property damage. ~



**City Resident and Fire Department Battalion Chief Brian Wiwel holds new Thermal Imaging Camera.**

## Arson Discovered at Econo-Lodge Fire

At approximately 2:15 a.m. on Aug. 14 the SeaTac City Fire Department was dispatched to a reported “smoke scare” at the Econo-Lodge, 19225 International Blvd. The “smoke scare” turned out to be one of the City’s worst fires in many years, resulting in eight fire-related injuries to motel guests and more than a half-million dollar fire loss.

The first Fire Company to arrive at the scene reported smoke from the second story of the two-story structure and guests hanging out the windows and trying to escape. An immediate request was issued for the response of all City fire resources and mutual aid response from neighboring fire departments.

Ladders were immediately used by the firefighters to rescue guests from the windows and balconies. At the same time, additional firefighters equipped with a thermal imaging camera crawled the nearly 300 foot-long hallway and searched each of the guestrooms on the second floor. Two trapped guests were located in their room and were led to safety. Emergency medical care was provided at the scene and seven of those treated were transported to local hospitals. One firefighter suffered a minor knee injury.

An investigation has determined that the cause of the fire was arson. Persons with any information regarding this fire are requested to contact the City Fire Marshal at 206-824-2726. ~

## Police and Fire Respond to Recent Terrorism

**By Police Chief Scott Somers and Fire Chief Jim Downs**

Just as the rest of America, SeaTac’s Police and Fire Departments were stunned by the recent attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania. The attacks have left us questioning whether we are doing everything we can to prevent similar acts from occurring and if we have the proper planning, training and equipment in place to respond if they do occur.

The good news is that recent events such as Y2K, WTO, school shootings and “the earthquake” have helped to prepare us to manage large-scale events better. Police and Fire Departments are better equipped, organized and trained to work together in times of crisis than they have ever been before.

The challenge of responding to terrorism is much more complex, though. A new level of cooperation and coordination is needed to address public safety needs in the future. Local, state and federal law enforcement must improve how they gather and share intelligence on terrorists while respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens. Along with other cities and counties throughout the nation, we are assessing and improving our Emergency Preparedness Plans. Since Sea-Tac International Airport lies within our City, we are coordinating prevention and response strategies with the Port of Seattle through joint planning, training and common equipment.

The City of SeaTac extends its sympathy and support to the many victims of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks. We want you to know that efforts are underway to make sure that these types of acts do not occur here; but if they should, we are prepared to respond. ~

## Veterans Day at the Museum of Flight

On Nov. 11 the Museum of Flight will join the rest of the nation in honoring the contributions of America's veterans. Veterans and current members of the U.S. Armed Forces will enjoy free Museum admission for a day of special programs and events.

From 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. the Museum's Side Gallery will resound with the sounds of the fifty-piece Boeing Employees Concert Band playing a special program of marches and other patriotic favorites. At 2 p.m. Wes Schierman will give a talk on his experience as a POW in North Vietnam. Schierman, an F-105 pilot, was shot down and captured in August 1965 during his thirty-seventh combat mission. He will relate the riveting details of his shootdown, ejection and capture, as well as sobering accounts of his seven-and-a-half years of captivity before being released on Feb. 12, 1973. His story of courage, honor and sacrifice is presented as a monument to all who have served.

For complete details including children's programs, call the Museum's Events Information Line at 206-764-5720 or visit the web site at [www.museumofflight.org](http://www.museumofflight.org). The Museum of Flight is located on the southwest corner of Boeing Field/King County International Airport at 9404 East Marginal Way South in Seattle. Plenty of free parking is available. Museum admission for non-veterans is \$9.50 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 5-17. ~



### Library Corner

Recent brain research has demonstrated that the sounds a child hears in the early stages of life largely determine the size of his/her adult vocabulary. Studies have also shown that young children who are spoken and read to early in life learn to think better conceptually. These are very important reasons to read to your child everyday. Let the library help! Valley View Library offers young children Preschool Story Times on Wednesday mornings. The library can assist in helping you find books for your child that will encourage the development of lifetime healthy reading habits. For more information, please call Ann Crewdson, Valley View Children's/Young Adult Librarian at 206-242-6044. ~

#### CITY DIRECTORY

**Emergency – 911**

**City of SeaTac**  
**206-241-9100**

**TDD Phone**  
**206-241-0091**

**Fax**  
**206-241-3999**

**E-mail**  
**[info@seatac.wa.gov](mailto:info@seatac.wa.gov)**

**Building Division**  
**206-241-1189**

**City Clerk**  
**206-248-6112**

**City Council**  
**206-241-9100**

**City Manager**  
**206-248-6108**

**Code Enforcement**  
**206-439-4745**

**Complaint form at**  
**[www.kcls.org](http://www.kcls.org)**

**Finance Department**  
**206-241-9100**

**Fire Department**  
**206-824-2726**

**Human Resources**  
**206-241-1594**

**Human Services**  
**206-248-6101**

**Job Line**  
**206-241-2295**

**Municipal Court**  
**206-241-1099**

**North SeaTac Park**  
**Community Center**  
**206-439-9273**

**Planning &**  
**Community**  
**Development**  
**206-241-1893**

**Police –**  
**(Non-emergency)**  
**206-296-3311**

**Police**  
**Administration**  
**206-241-9100**

**Public Works**  
**206-241-1996**



#### City of SeaTac

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